

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01401 280601Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SAI-01 SAM-01 SSC-01 /086 W

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R 280530Z SEP 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3654

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T BAGHDA 1401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BAKR'S HEALTH

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR, NAZIF CUHRUK, WHO IS NOW MAKING HIS FAREWELL ROUNDS IN BAGHDAD, HAS BEEN ASKED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE UNTIL OCTOBER 3 TO GIVE MINISTRY TIME TO SCHEDULE A FAREWELL CALL FOR AMBASSADOR ON PRESIDENT BAKR. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DID NOT GUARANTEE AN APPOINTMENT BUT ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT THEY WOULD DO THEIR BEST FOR HIM IF HE WOULD REMAIN IN BAGHDAD UNTIL OCTOBER 3. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD NOT RECEIVE ANY AMBASSADORS DURING MONTH OF RAMADAN WHICH ENDED ON SEPTEMBER 26. IF TURKISH AMBASSADOR RECEIVES APPOINT-

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MENT, IT WILL BE FIRST CONTACT BETWEEN PRESIDENT BAKR

AND A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC CORPS SINCE HIS
STROKE ON AUGUST 27.

2. BAKR HAS ALSO DISAPPEARED FROM NEWSPAPER COVERAGE
DURING PAST MONTH, BUT ATH-THAWRA ON SEPTEMBER 26
CARRIED FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF BAKR RECEIVING SENIOR
BAATH PARTY OFFICIALS ON THE OCCASION OF AID-AL
FITR. CONSENSUS WITHIN THE CORPS IS THAT BAKR'S
STROKE WAS RELATIVELY MINOR BUT THAT BAKR IS NOW IN
GENERALLY POOR HEALTH AND CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO
REMAIN IN OFFICE MUCH LONGER.
WILEY

SECRET

NNN

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To: STATE
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